

Attorney Docket No.: AVALUC-01701 7.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

04/01/04

In re Application of:

Louis Bouchard et al.

Serial No.: 09/697,113

Filed: October 25, 2000

For: INSTANT MESSAGE

NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

Group Art Unit: 2143

Examiner: Dennison, Jerry

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON

December 31, 2003

162 N. Wolfe Road Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 530-9700

Customer No.: 28960

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Technology Center 2100

MS: Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENTS

Marked up version of the claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing message notification for a user in an instant messaging system comprising the steps of:
 - a. <u>coupling a message notification application to a server, wherein the server stores</u> messages for the user;
 - [a.] <u>b.</u> registering a <u>the</u> message notification application to at least one instant messaging service;
 - c. accessing one of the at least one instant messaging service by the user:
 - [b.] <u>d.</u> signing a <u>the</u> user onto the message notification application by adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application <u>thereby associating the user to</u> the one instant messaging service which the user is currently accessing; and

